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Origin

Info

Department feels that either through UNSC or Organ of Consultation of OAS or Inter-American Peace Committee a consideration of Guatemalan accusation of aggressions by Honduras and Nicaragua is inevitable. Guatemala would prefer UNSC because Communist countries would participate. However, SC would refer to OAS were it not for USSR veto. US prefers that accusations not be taken up by Organ of Consultation because:

(1) Guatemala would try include problem on agenda for Montevideo meeting, thus enormously complicating and extending meeting.

(2) Greater degree of control exists over Peace Committee which is composed in addition to US, of Brazil and Cuba, which generally share US views, and Argentina and Mexico. Thus, final action by Peace Committee can probably be postponed until after Montevideo meeting.

Dist.
Desired
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Honduras and Nicaragua should logically prefer that accusations be considered by Peace Committee which operates only on informal basis and with consent of governments affected rather than on theatrical basis and with wide powers of Organ of Consultation.

Re DEPCIRTEL 454 Department believes Guatemala resisted action on its application to Peace Committee because it intends to press for action by

Organ of

Drafted by:

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ARA:HFHolland

Clearances:

ARA - Ambassador Dreier G - Mr. Murphy - in substance by telephone

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Organ of Consultation or by SC. Department feels that as countermeasure Honduras and Nicaragua should insist on action by Peace Committee on Guatemala's application since it accuses them of unlawful aggression. If, as quite possible, Guatemala refuses good offices of Peace Committee, its position as regards subsequent action considerably weakened. Since move by Guatemala in COAS may be imminent you should today discuss foregoing with President and telephone Department his reaction.

G. W. MURPHY

(ACTING)

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